HC HANATOYUME COMICS 別冊花とゆめ

嘘解きレトリック

2

都戸利津

HC HANATOYUME COMICS 別冊花とゆめ

Shoujo Sense

Usotoki Rhetoric

by Miyako Ritsu

2

Chapter 5

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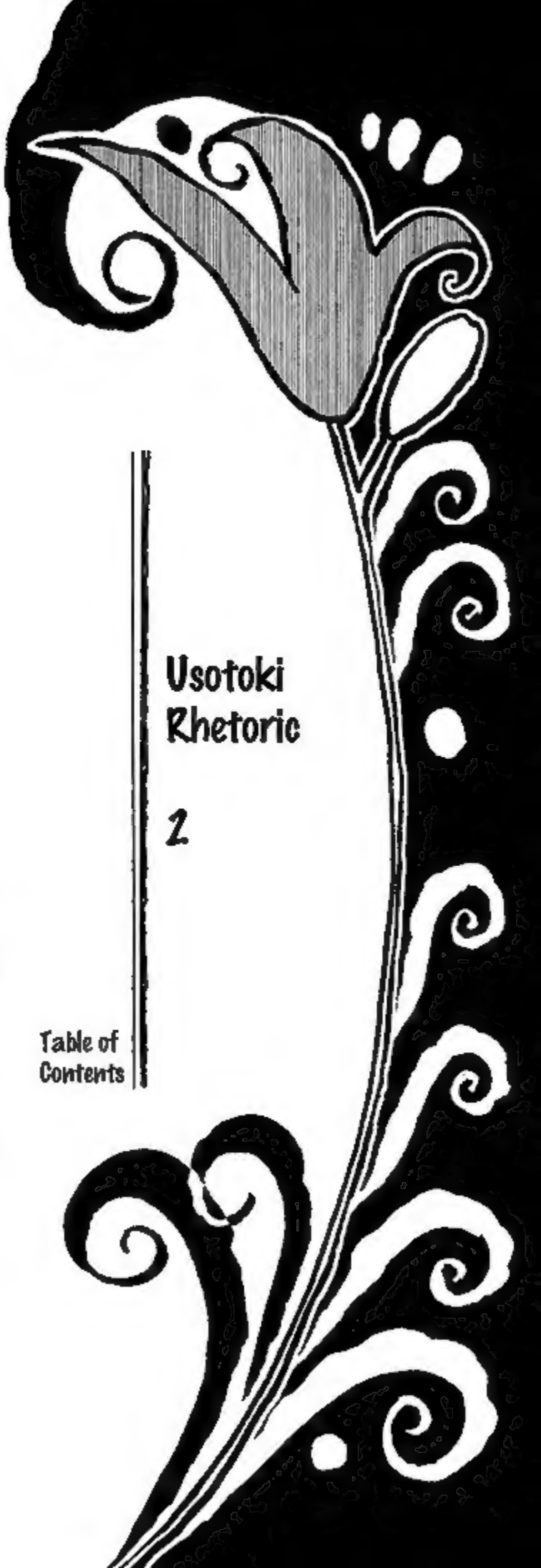
Miyako Ritsu



Usotoki Rhetoric 2

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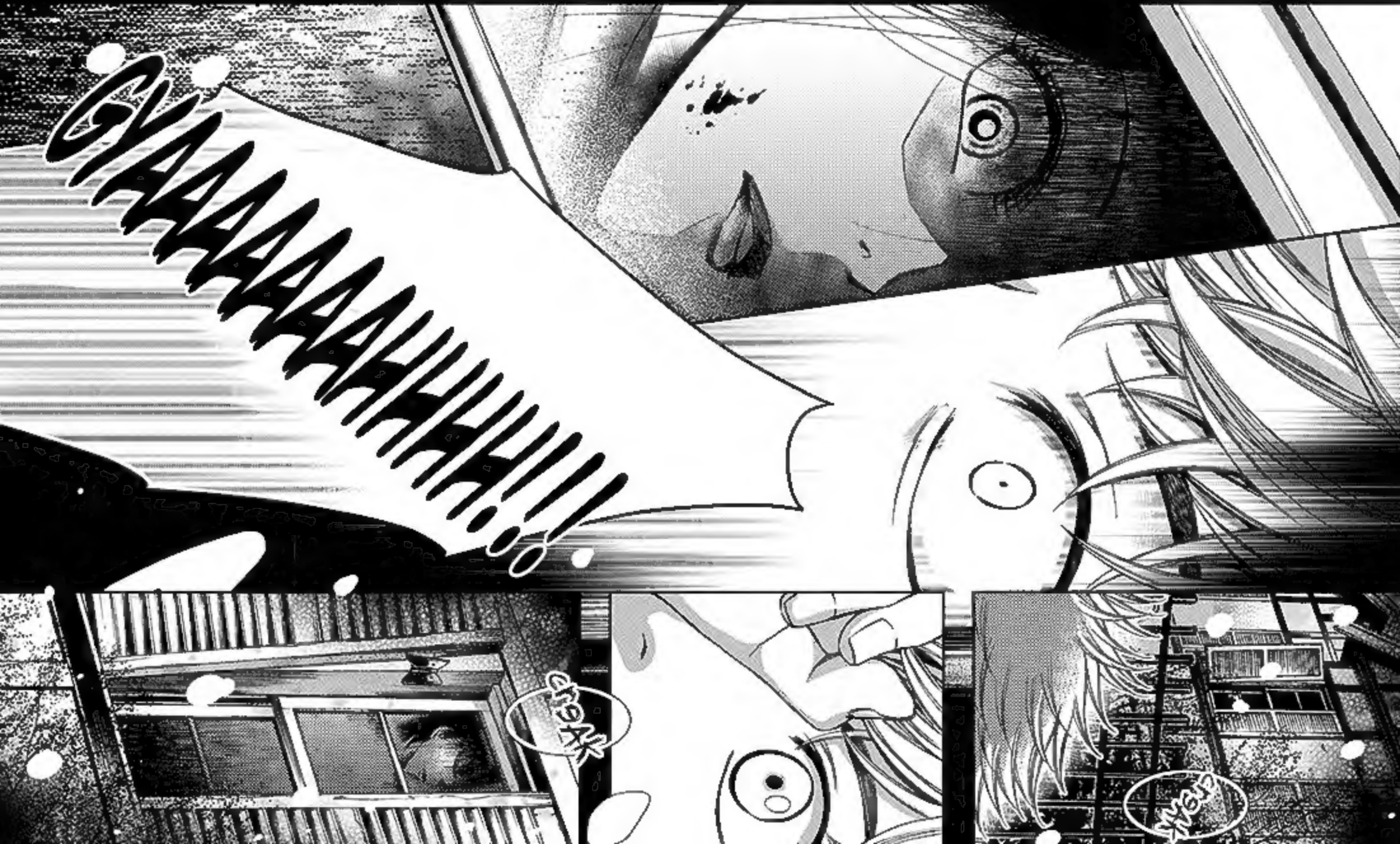
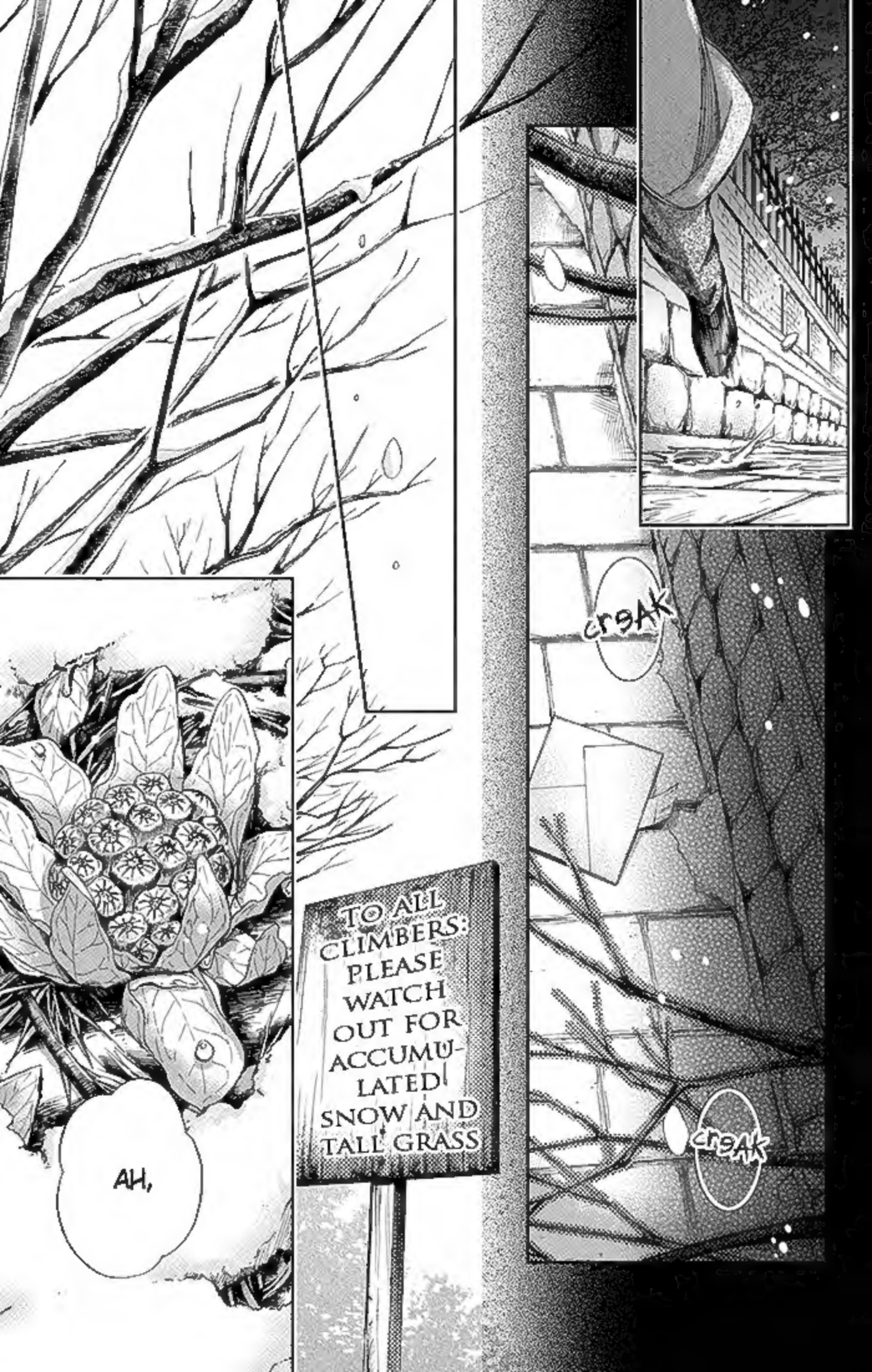
Chapter 5
The start of the Showa Era in the town of Tsukumoya.
THE LANDLORD LIVING NEXT DOOR CAME BY TO CHECK ON HIM
WHEN HE SAW THAT THE LIGHTS WEREN'T ON, EVEN WHEN IT WAS ALREADY DARK OUTSIDE.
THE DECEASED IS A RETIRED MAN LIVING ALONE.
SOMETIME AFTER HIS HOUSEKEEPER LEFT TO GO HOME, SOMEONE CAME IN AND COMMITTED THE CRIME.
COULD BE ROBBERY OR FOUL PLAY...
THIS MAN APPARENTLY LIVES IN THE HOUSE AT THE BACK.
HE SAYS HE SAW SOMEONE STRANGE COME BY LATE IN THE AFTERNOON.
HE...

TOOK SUCH GOOD CARE OF ME.
I SHOULD HAVE CHECKED UP ON HIM AS SOON AS I SAW THAT STRANGE MAN...
SO WHAT HAP-PENED?
AT AROUND 5PM... I SAW A MAN LEAVING HIS HOUSE CARRYING A LARGE PACKAGE.
IT WAS ALREADY DARK OUT-SIDE, BUT HE PASSED DIRECTLY BY MY HOUSE SO I WAS ABLE TO SEE HIS FACE.
HE WAS A BALD MAN OF AROUND 50 WITH A SCAR ACROSS HIS RIGHT CHEEK TO HIS NOSE.
BAM!
!
SFX: CLATTER-ZX
ガタ
ガタ
THE WIND...
THE WINDS SURE ARE STRONG TODAY.
SFX: HYUUUUU

At around the same time.
Should I take a shortcut?
Nah. It's dangerous to walk around there at night.
I WENT THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE TO ASK HER OUT
AND NOW I'M LATE!
SFX: WHOOOSH
GAH...
SFX: FWOOOSH


GYAAAAHHH!!!
CREAK
CREAK


TO ALL CLIMBERS: PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR ACCUMU-LATED SNOW AND TALL GRASS
AH,
CREAK
CREAK

I FOUND ANOTHER RHUBARB!
YOU'RE AWFULLY ENERGETIC DESPITE THE FREEZING COLD, KANOKO-KUN.
YEAH, THE TOWN I LIVED IN WAS MUCH COLDER THAN THIS.
YOU CAN AT LEAST READ THAT NEWSPAPER WE JUST PICKED UP.
This one too!!
IT'S YESTERDAY'S NEWSPAPER.
I'VE BEEN GETTING VERY LUCKY SINCE SPRING.
Yesterday.
I sent a letter to my mom.

Eyewitness describes a suspicious man
YESTERDAY, HUH? IT WAS SNOWING THEN; IT WAS SO COLD
THE SUSPECT IS STILL ON THE RUN.
IT SAYS THERE WAS A MURDER AND ROBBERY IN TOWN.
In my previous letters, I never wrote a return address.
I GUESS HANASAKI-SAN IS THERE INVESTIGATING
But now, for the first time, I wrote the address of the Iwai Investigation Firm.
YEAH, HE'S PROBABLY OUT THERE IN THIS COLD WEATHER.
I THINK THERE ARE MORE VEGETABLES OVER THERE.
I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK.
THERE'S NONE THERE.

THAT'S WHY EVERYONE ELSE PASSED BY THAT ROUTE INSTEAD
YOU CAN SEE THEIR FOOTPRINTS.
BUT IT'S ALREADY INUNDATED WITH SNOW.
THIS ROUTE LEADS TO THE TOP.
WE PASSED BY A SLOPE ON THE WAY HERE, RIGHT?
REAL-LY?
SO NO, THERE ARE NO VEGETABLES THERE ANY-MORE
Mom.
AND SINCE WE PICKED UP THIS NEWSPAPER FROM YESTERDAY ON THE WAY UP, THAT MEANS THEY JUST PASSED BY HERE EITHER YESTERDAY OR TODAY
THE ONLY THING UP THERE IS A SMALL SHRINE SO THAT MEANS EVERYONE ELSE WHO CAME UP WENT THERE TO PICK VEGE-TABLES.

So that wasn't you being a detective...
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE THROUGH POVERTY,
WELL, THESE ARE THINGS YOU HAVE TO KNOW
I am doing my best,
YOU REALLY ARE AN AMAZING DETECTIVE!!
let's try going down here
trying to be helpful,
as Detective Iwai Souma's assistant.
WE BROUGHT THE VEGETABLES YOU ASKED!
WILL THIS BE ENOUGH?
The people here are so kind
THAT'S JUST RIGHT, THANK YOU.
GOOD AFTERNOON!

snuggle
snuggle
I'M FINE, BECAUSE THE KIMONO YOU GAVE ME IS SO WARM!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
and they make delicious food.
AREN'T YOU COLD? YOU CAN GO SIT BY THE FIRE
I'M GOING TO MAKE TEMPURA FOR YOU AND DETECTIVE IWAI'S DINNER.
sizzle
So cold.
So cold.

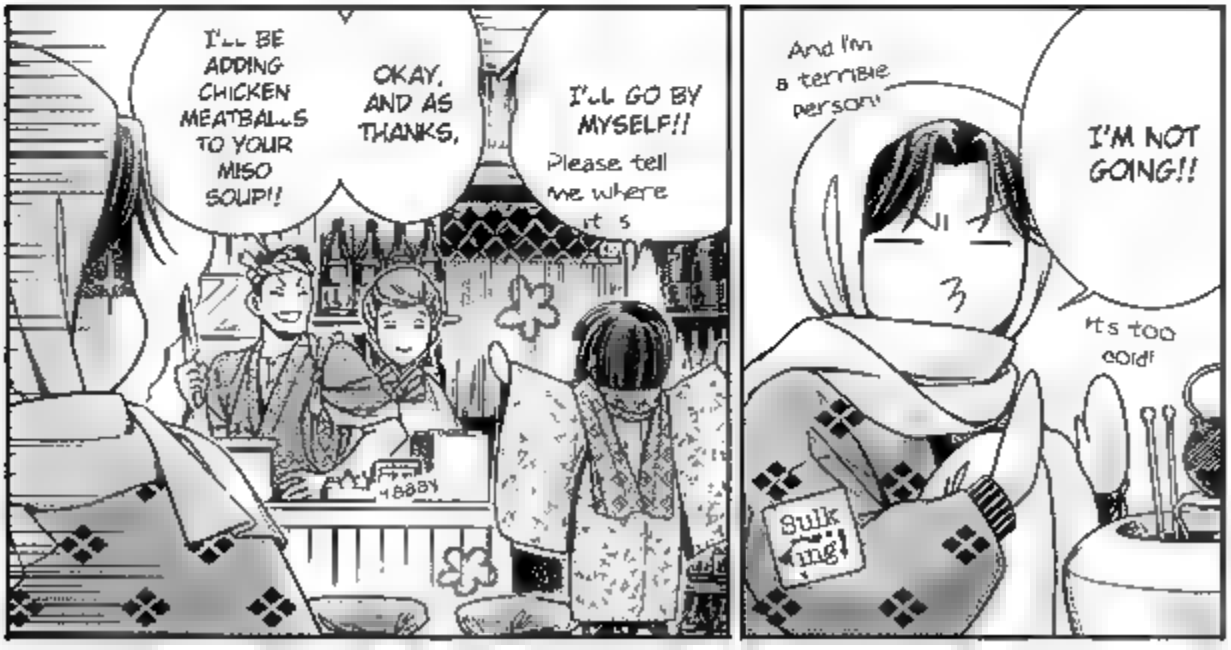
My pockets are also cold.
I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE ABLE TO GET THINGS LIKE THIS WITHOUT HAVING A PAID JOB.
I ONLY HAD SUMMER KIMONOS WITH ME FROM HOME, SO THIS WAS A REALLY GREAT HELP
Girls really are great!
IT LOOKS GREAT ON YOU!
WELL, THERE ARE NO OTHER WOMEN IN MY HOME, AND I STILL HAD SOME OLD KIMONOS FROM WHEN I WAS YOUNG.

IT'S NOT THAT. I WENT TO VISIT A FRIEND AT THE HOSPITAL THIS MORNING
AND FORGOT MY SHAWL THERE.
I already gave that to you so it doesn't matter if you get it dirty
OH, DID I GET IT DIRTY?
Every day is so much fun.
OH, THE SHAWL ...

THANK YOU, DEAR.
BUT THE HOSPITAL WILL ALREADY BE CLOSED FOR VISITORS BY THE TIME YOU GET THERE
Hehe
AND I WAS PLANNING TO WEAR IT TOMOR-ROW .
YOU DO TEND TO GET CARELESS, DON'T YOU.
DON'T WORRY, I'LL GO GET IT FOR YOU.
BESIDES, I HAVE OTHER SCARVES I LIKE MORE.
I have come to accept
that my power of being able to detect people's lies
I CAN GET THAT SCARF FOR YOU IF YOU WANT.
UM, MISS,

BUT YOU JUST GOT ALL THESE VEGETABLES FOR ME I DON'T WANT TO TAKE ANY MORE OF YOUR TIME
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
I HAVEN'T HAD ANY WORK AT ALL!!
IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO AFTER YOU'VE LET US EAT HERE FOR FREE
My heart is also cold

can be used
YOU DID SAVE TARO'S LIFE...
BUT OKAY. WILL YOU DO IT AS A FAVOR FOR ME?
IT'S A RED SCARF WITH A HOUND-STOOTH PATTERN
to help people.


I'LL BE ADDING CHICKEN MEATBALLS TO YOUR MISO SOUP!!
OKAY. AND AS THANKS,
I'LL GO BY MYSELF!!
Please tell me where it is
I'M NOT GOING!!
And I'm a terrible person
It's too cold!
Sulking!

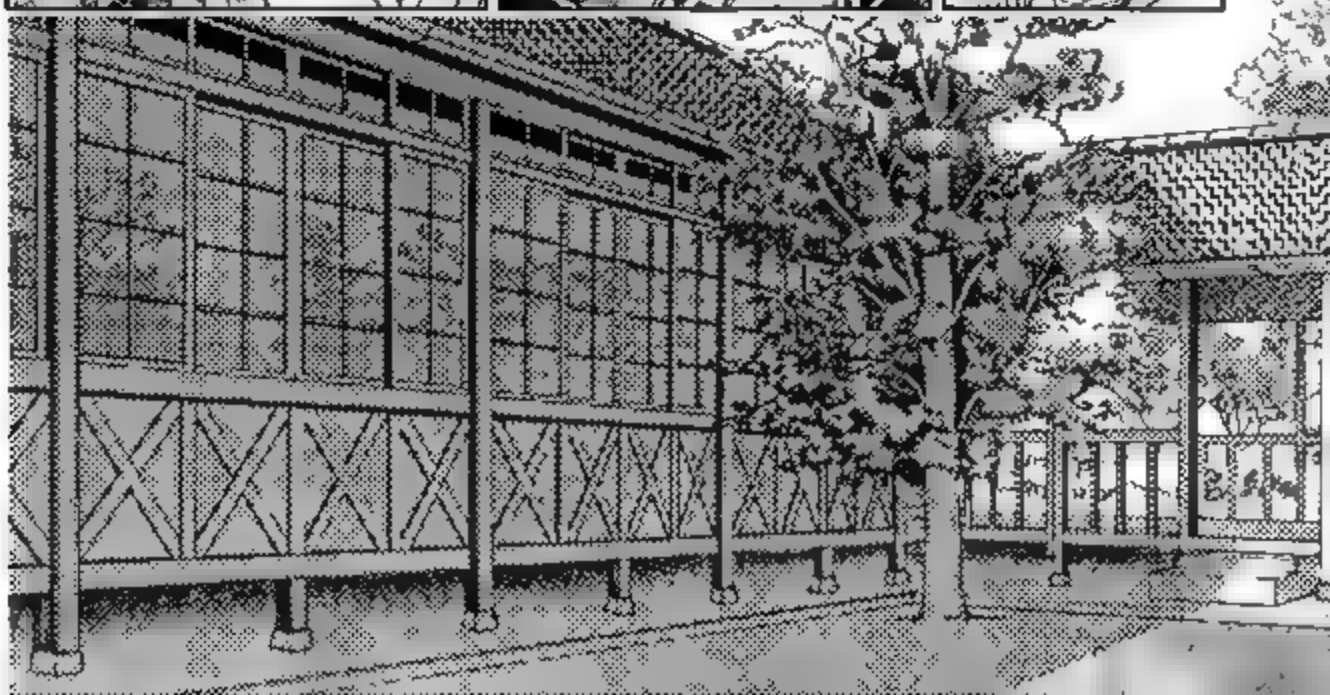
SIGN HIROIKE SURGICAL HOSPITAL
CHICKEN MEAT-BALLS!
CHICKEN MEATBALLS IN MISO-
AND VEGETABLE TEMPURA-
YOU CAN'T GO SKIPPING IN A HOS-PITAL
I WONDER WHAT'S IN THERE
THAT ROOM SURE IS POPULAR, HUH.

ARE YOU PLANNING ON TELLING THE TRUTH ANYTIME SOON?
I TOLD YOU I'M NOT LYING! BELIEVE ME-
Lover's quarrel?
THIS DOESN'T REALLY CONCERN US.
HE'S NOT LYING.
YOU GOSSIP-ING OVER THERE!
WE'RE NOT SOME SHOW YOU CAN JUST WATCH! GO BACK TO YOUR OWN WARD!
Ah.
SFX PYU
YOU'RE FROM THE ROSE CAFE...

OH, YOU'RE THE DETECTIVE FROM THAT INCIDENT WITH MARIE.
THANK YOU FOR HELPING US WITH THAT
WE COULD HEAR YOU FROM THE CORRIDOR.
DETEC-TIVE...
I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE THAT.
I CAN PROVE TO YOU THAT I'M TELL-ING THE TRUTH!!
DETEC-TIVE!!
IT WAS JUST A LOVER'S QUAR-REL.

The detective looks bothered.
telling the truth.
He really is
SFX SNIFF

SFX OPEN
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK, I AM ALL EARS
IT'S JUST A SMALL TOKEN.
PLEASE TAKE IT
OH, BY THE WAY



His name is Kirino Kanji.
He draws for magazines and advertisements.
I SAW IT.
IN THAT ABANDONED EUROPEAN STYLE HOUSE ON 30TH STREET
A GHOST?
What happened 10 years ago...?
YES. TWO NIGHTS AGO...
DOES THIS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHAT HAPPENED 10 YEARS AGO?
THE EUROPEAN STYLE HOUSE ON 30TH STREET

I HAD A DATE AND I WAS RUNNING LATE.
SO I DECIDED TO TAKE THE SHORTCUT THAT PASSES BY IN FRONT OF THAT HOUSE.
THE WIND WAS SO STRONG.
WAH!
CRSAK
AND BEHIND A BROKEN WINDOW,
I SAW THE GHOST OF THAT HANGED WOMAN.
CRSAK
WAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!

AH, WEL... A WOMAN CAME.
A WOMAN? THAT GHOST?
AND SO, WHY WERE YOU TWO FIGHTING?
Ah
What could it be?
What?
BUT SHE TOLD ME SHE KNEW ME.
NO, IT'S SOMEONE I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE.
I'LL TALK TO HER.
I SHOULDN'T BE TELLING YOU THIS.
IT'S NOT A STORY OTHER PEOPLE SHOULD BE HEARING.
Lily-san is a waitress.
They say her real name is Sayuri.
TWO NIGHTS AGO...

KANJI INVITED ME TO WATCH A MOVIE
SO I TOOK THE DAY OFF TO GO OUT WITH HIM.
YEP YEP THAT'S THE DATE I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT
WE WERE GOING TO THE MOVIES
SHUT UP, I'M THE ONE TALKING HERE!!
WELL, AS I WAS SAYING, THE MOVIE HAD ALREADY STARTED, BUT KANJI HADN'T ARRIVED YET
I WAS THINKING OF JUST GOING HOME
MISS,

K.K
That woman
had a picture that Kanji drew.
THIS IS YOU, ISN'T IT?
To Lily my love
K K
WHO IS THE MAN WHO DREW THIS AND WHAT IS HIS NAME?
HE WAS SO DRUNK LAST NIGHT; WE BECAME QUICK FRIENDS.
HE LEFT THIS DRAWING AND A MOVIE TICKET AT MY HOUSE...
IT WAS A ONE NIGHT STAND, SO I WASN'T EVEN ABLE TO ASK FOR HIS NAME
BUT I THINK THIS MUST BE FATE AND I DON'T WANT TO LET THIS SLIP AWAY
THAT WOMAN WAS LYING!! I DON'T KNOW WHO SHE IS!!
GLARE
AND DID YOU TELL HER ABOUT KANJI-SAN?

WHY WOULD I EVEN BE NICE TO HER?
I JUST TOLD HER THAT I DIDN'T KNOW HIS NAME AND THAT HE WAS JUST A CUSTOMER AT THE RESTAURANT
... THEN I LEFT.
HMMM
IT'S TRUE! I TOLD YOU IT'S TRUE!!
I SAW A GHOST AND GOT SO SCARED.
I RAN WHICHEVER WAY I COULD
AND GOT HIT BY A CAR.
That's how I got here
SFX AAH
THIS MAN DOESN'T KEEP TO HIS WORD.
I NEVER HEARD FROM HIM AT ALL. I ONLY CAME HERE WHEN I RECEIVED A TELEGRAM.
AND HE SAYS HE NEVER CAME BECAUSE HE SAW A GHOST.

THAT WOMAN HAD A PICTURE YOU DREW.
I DREW THAT FOR YOU. I BROUGHT IT WITH ME BECAUSE I WANTED TO GIVE IT TO YOU THAT DAY
WHEN I REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, I COULDN'T FIND IT ANYMORE.
I PROBABLY DROPPED IT WHEN I WAS PANICKING AFTER SEEING THE GHOST.
WAIT, THAT'S RIGHT!!
SHE MUST HAVE PICKED IT UP WHEN I DROPPED IT.
I PROBABLY DROPPED THE TICKET AT THE SAME TIME, AND SHE CAME TO YOU TO GIVE IT BACK...
She might be a good person
THEN WHY DID SHE SAY YOU HAD A ONE NIGHT STAND?!
Both Kanji-san and Lily-san
are telling the truth.
I DON'T KNOOOOW---- WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH THAT WOMAN----
So then,

who is this mysterious woman?
WHAT A STRANGE TALE...
I'M SORRY FOR BORING YOU WITH ALL THIS TALK, DETECTIVE.
LILY!
WAIT!
clack
WELL...
WE'RE NOT LOVERS ANYWAY. THERE'S NO NEED TO MAKE THIS ANY WORSE.
clack

THERE'S ONLY YOU I SWEAR
LET'S JUST PRETEND WE'RE IN LOVE
IT'S NOT LIKE I EVER TALK TO SERIOUSLY ANYWAY
Lily san
that was a lie.

I-
I DON'T THINK KANJI-SAN IS LYING!

LILY-SAN!
And it only hurts both Lily-san
and Kanji-san.

"YOU ARE SPECIAL."
"BELIEVE ME."
I HEAR THAT ALL THE TIME FROM THE CAFE'S CUSTOMERS.

WON'T YOU BELIEVE HIM?!

IT WAS ALL MAKE-BELIEVE, THOUGH,
AND THE ILLUSION IS SHATTERED AS SOON AS WE GO BACK INTO THE REAL WORLD OUTSIDE THE CAFE
AND HE MISTAKENLY BELIEVED IT WAS REAL.
BUT KANJI-SAN ISN'T JUST
INSIDE THE CAFE, WE PRETENDED TO BE LOVERS.
EVEN MARIE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN
BUT HE FELL FOR IT AND CRIED.
HE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT IT HAP-PENS ALL THE TIME WITH WAITRESSES AND CAFE GUESTS.
BYE.
YOU SHOULD KNOW IT'S DANGEROUS TO BE SO FORTHCOMING TO PEOPLE
KANOKO-CHAN, RIGHT?
I KNEW YOU COULDN'T BE A WAIT-RESS.

so I couldn't convince her to believe me
when I said that Kanji-san wasn't lying.
I GUESS IT'S TRUE.
I couldn't say anything after that.
She knew I didn't know anything about her.
Can I have some tea?
sob
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD HAVE SERIOUSLY BEEN WITH
SUCH A DESIRABLE WOMAN LIKE LILY-SAN.
"Your power can help a lot of people."
THAT WAS WHAT I BELIE-VED...
THANK YOU.
YOU'RE WRONG!
Ah, you're back
LILY-SAN WAS SERI-OUS ABOUT YOU!
Is there nothing

LET'S FIND OUT!!
By the way
"It's hard to make people believe when you don't have proof."
I can do for the both of them?
We have to find enough proof to convince them.
LET'S FIND OUT WHO THAT MYSTERY WOMAN IS
They won't believe me if I don't have proof.
BUT HOW?
WE HAVE NO CLUE WHERE... OH.
AND CLEAR UP THIS MISUNDER-STANDING!!

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA?!
WELL I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING SCARY
THAT WOMAN
WAS THE GHOST I SAW.
SHE TOOK AN INTEREST IN MY DRAWING
"Did you draw this..."
"Give me a pretty face too..."
SHE PROBABLY FOLLOWED ME HOME
NO! PLEASE DON'T THINK THAT!!
ACTUALLY, YOU MAY BE RIGHT.
clink

I'm right.?
DETEC-TIVE?
LET'S GO AND IN-VESTIGATE.
Huh?
It's rare for him to take the initiative...
OKAY! WHERE TO?
WELL, OF COURSE,

WHY?!
HE REALLY IS GOOD AT DRAWING.

Why are we looking for ghosts?!
AND THE FRONT DOOR IS BROKEN.

THE GATES ARE RUSTY
Aren't we looking for the mysterious woman?!
Shouldn't we just ask Lily-san what she looked like?

THAT WAS SCARY, TOO!
YOU'RE SCARED ?
BUT YOU CAMPED OUT IN THAT RUN-DOWN SHRINE.

IT'S PROBABLY BROKEN DOWN INSIDE.
WE'RE GOING INSIDE?!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, KANOKO-KUN.

AREN'T WE LOOKING FOR THAT MYSTERY WOMAN?
SO WHY ARE WE HERE?
See?
JUST THINK OF NICE THINGS!!
LIKE YUMMY MEATBALLS OR TEMPURA!!
I can't think about meatballs or tempura.
I HAVE A FEELING WE'LL FIND SOME CLUES HERE.
MAYBE THAT MYSTERIOUS WOMAN FINDING KANJI-SAN
HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH KANJI-SAN SEEING A GHOST HERE.
What?!
step
step
EEK!
10 YEARS AGO? OH RIGHT, SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED...
AND THAT GHOST
HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT INCIDENT 10 YEARS AGO.
SFX: JOLT

who●●osh
!!
OH, URABE-KUN...
Sorry to interrupt
SOUMA CALLED ME.
HANA-SAKI-SAN?!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

COULD IT BE? THAT 10 YEARS AGO...
An incident at this house on 30th street... 10 years ago...
Murder?!
TOLD ME HE HAS SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL ME ABOUT THE MURDER CASE.
YES. 10 YEARS AGO,
SOMEONE IN THIS HOUSE WAS MURDERED.
AND THE CASE IS STILL UNSOLVED.